


If a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any issues concerning this communication, please contact Applicants' primary attorney-of record, Gregory A. Sebald (Reg. No. 33,280), at (612) 336.4728.

Respectfully submitted,

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GAS/rw

An electrolytic cell for the treatment according to the present invention can be, e.g., a unit which comprises a liquid container having at least one liquid inlet and one liquid outlet, e.g., a pipe, further comprising at least one cathode and one anode placed within said liquid container, said cathode and anode being in electrical contact with the "-" and "+" poles of a direct current source, respectively. Said liquid inlet is connected to stream 5 of Fig. 1, and said liquid outlet is connected to filter 8.

In contrast to the use made in WO 99/16715, in which no chemicals are added, the present invention ~~requires~~ <sup>MAY REQUIRE</sup> the use of at least hypochlorite.

Furthermore, the invention permits to employ water having a conductivity of 3,000  $\mu\text{S}$  or higher, up to about 6,000  $\mu\text{S}$ , without causing any substantial increase in corrosion. A typical pH for operating under these conditions is  $\text{pH} \approx 8.5 - 9$ . In this specification " $\mu\text{S}$ " indicates the  $\mu\text{Siemens}$  unit (which equals  $\mu\Omega^{-1}$ ). It should be noted that current standards, in cooling towers employing chemicals, is not greater than 3,000  $\mu\text{S}$ , and often as low as 2,000  $\mu\text{S}$ .

The present invention can be carried out by means of any electrolytic cell. An example of such a cell is described, e.g., in Whitten et al., "General Chemistry with Qualitative Analysis", Saunders College Publishing, 4th ed., pp. 12-13.

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In contrast to the use made in WO 99/16715, in which no chemicals are added, the present invention may require the use of at least hypochlorite. Furthermore, the invention permits to employ water having a conductivity of 3,000  $\mu\text{S}$ , or higher, up to about 6,000  $\mu\text{S}$ , without causing any substantial increase in corrosion. A typical pH for operating under these conditions is  $\text{pH} \approx 8.5 - 9$ . In this specification, " $\mu\text{S}$ " indicates the  $\mu\text{Siemens}$  unit (which equals  $\mu\Omega^{-1}$ ). It should be noted that current standards, in cooling towers employing chemicals, is not greater than 3,000  $\mu\text{S}$ , and often as low as 2,000  $\mu\text{S}$ .

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